

DCFS Licensing Advisory Council
DCFS 1911 S. Indiana Ave. Chicago, IL 60616
August 8th, 2019
11:00 - 1:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF	GUESTS
Bethany Patten		Debra DeValdivielso	DeCarla Burton
Martina Rocha		Theenshina Mayfield	Kisha Davis (IDHS)
Stephanie Spanbauer		George Vennikandam (co-chair)	Donna Emmons
Sarah Stoliker		Edie Washington Gurley	Carmen Garcia
Maria Estlund (co-chair)		Mary Jane Forney	
Jamilah Jor'dan		Victoria Range	
Beth Knight		Jill Wilson	
Dara Munson			
Gail Nelson			
Dennise Monnier			
Emnet Ward			
Estefania Hernandez (council staff)			

Welcome and Introductions

Approve Minutes from June 13th, 2019

- Motion: Beth Knight
- Seconded: Donna Emmons

Department Updates

Presenter(s): George Vennikandam

- George provided several personnel updates:
 - Ken Yordy, Regional Administrator for the Southern Region has retired on July 31.
 - Edie Washington Gurley is Acting Associate Deputy Director.
 - DCFS Cook County has a new regional administrator of operations.
- George provided new data on licensed childcare facilities:
 - There are 6273 licensed daycare homes in the state.
 - Out of those 6,273 daycare homes, 766 are group day care homes.
 - Currently, there are 61 pending applications for child care centers and 167 pending applications for child care homes.
 - Maria Estlund asks about data regarding what child care programs are closing across the state. George says we could look at data from the past few months, but the data might not give an accurate picture of the landscape. He will check with IT and report back.
- George provided updates on the new background check authorizations:

- CCDGB background check requirements are more extensive than what is usually required by the state of Illinois.
 - The department is recommending that providers submit fingerprint and clearance forms upon offering employment to a potential employee since staff cannot have direct contact with children until they have received initial clearance according to the CCDBG.
- For applicants who have lived out of state within the last 5 years, there are additional steps they must follow– DCFS now has to request background history from the state the applicant lived in prior. One issue that arises from this practice is that some states require a fee to access background history and some states can also close cases against an applicant. The department’s current response is waiting 30 days and issuing clearance, but they will now be pushing it to 45 days.
- DCFS has decided that every 3 years there will be a comprehensive background check which will result in a workload increase of about 40% because of the administrative requirements.
- Felony and arson are now disqualifying offenses.
- DCFS fingerprint vendor has opened 7 new locations for fingerprinting– 4 of which are in Cook County and 3 are outside of Cook. DCFS also states that daycare centers that have a significant number of staff can request the vendor to come out to their site to take fingerprints.

Council membership & Committee Participation

Presenter(s): Maria E., George V

- Maria shares updates on the membership appointment process and recruitment:
 - Maria has reached out to schedule a call with DCFS Co-Chair and staff to look into the membership reappointment process to ensure the council is hearing diverse perspectives. She is also requesting for feedback from the council on what perspectives they think are currently not being heard that should be. She will be keeping the council updated on the process.
- The advisory council co-chairs are planning a strategic planning session where they plan to lay out their goals as a committee and outline their priorities for the upcoming years.

ECE Educator Compensation Consensus Statement

Presenter(s): Bethany Patten, GOECD

- Bethany Patten from the Governor’s office shared with the council the preliminary results of the work the Governor’s Office is doing on early childhood compensation:
 - This report was completed with support from the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices through their *Improving Early Care and Education Workforce 2.0* Policy Academy, a grant whose purpose was to support the states in exploring policy improvements related to the early care and education workforce. They have been conducting presentations all over the state and gathering input and feedback.
 - Their work has been guided by four principles–
 - The work of early childhood educators is sophisticated.
 - Early childhood should reflect the families and communities they serve.
 - Compensation parity is the foundation of a quality workforce.
 - The current ECE market functions because ECE professionals forgo a living wage aligned to the sophistication of their work.
 - Bethany explained what they already know about early childhood educators regarding their demographics, educational background, and typical wages:

- The workforce is 95% women, typically in their 30s-40s, they have a more diverse workforce than K-12, well educated (nearly half of licensed childcare have a BA or higher)
 - They earn wages similar to manicurists, cashiers, hotel desk clerks, bank tellers, receptionists
 - They are unlikely to have access to workplace benefits package
- Given their findings, they have developed three proposals:
 - Expand compensation language in contracts
 - Educator compensation requirements should be written directly into contracts for CCAP and ECBG
 - Incorporate compensation into QRIS (ExcelRate) and tiered reimbursement
 - Illinois can encourage and reward compensation parity by tying it to quality and supporting settings through tiered reimbursement to get it there
 - Develop a wage and salary schedule
 - Wage scales promote career growth while creating a livable wage floor or average
- Bethany also informed the council of the recommendations they came up with:
 - They have called on the Executive Committee to call on IDHS to analyze and implement an increase in CCAP reimbursement rates to support minimum wage increases and for them to call on ISBE to analyze and implement expansion of compensation parity requirements from PFA-E to PFA and PI
- Lastly, Bethany shared the Governor's Office next steps:
 - Quality Committee will reconcile work completed by compensation and CCAP tiered reimbursement
 - Deliverable: brief submitted to ELC and BCG by September 2019
 - PDG B-5 cost modeling is incorporating compensation parity into calculations
 - Deliverable: report on cost model, analysis, and recommendations by December 2019
- Maria E. shared that Illinois Action for Children will be hosting listening sessions surrounding issues around compensation for early childhood educators- she will be updating the group with the schedule for those sessions.

IL State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program Presenter(s): Janna Simon, IL Public Health Institute

- Janna Simon, the Program Director from Illinois Public Health Institute presented to the council on the Illinois State Physical Activity and Nutrition program (ISPAN) and their work to address root causes of obesity and how that relates to early childhood and DCFS.
 - ISPAN Overview- This work is funded by a five-year, \$4.6 million initiative from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to implement physical activity and nutrition interventions in Illinois. They have a focus on communities most affected by chronic diseases like type 2 diabetes and heart disease.
 - ISPAN Strategies-
 - Breastfeeding- increase the number of community and clinical settings supporting new moms to breastfeed their babies for as long as they want to.
 - Early childhood and education- implement and integrate physical activity and nutrition standards into early childhood systems.

- Built environment- connect activity friendly routes to everyday destinations by improving walking, biking, and transit systems to promote physical activity.
- Food service guidelines- implement food service guidelines in worksites and community settings to increase the availability of healthy foods.
 - The CDC wants to focus on 47 high impact interventions to promote nutrition/physical activity in ECE facilities.
- ISPAN's goal is to integrate more of these standards into a variety of policies and systems within the ECE Spectrum of Opportunities. Research also finds that 60% of children in Illinois regularly spend a significant time in child care settings which shows ECE settings can play a significant role in promoting health. ISPAN wants to know how to support providers to implement these systems.
- Janna explained their plans for early childhood education for the next few years:
 - These plans include adding training content related to screen time and breastfeeding in existing Basic Health and Safety Training and Credential Level 1 training for ECE providers.
 - Updating breastfeeding and screen time components in existing We Choose Health training and linked to Go NAPSACC provider assessment tool.
 - Launching ECE Learning Collaboratives in 3 regions to work with small cohorts of ECE providers to implement facility-level changes to support nutrition/physical activity.
 - Monitoring and raising awareness regarding anticipated nutrition and physical activity updates to licensing rules 406 and 408 for family and group child care homes during the first year and then eventually support and comment on the anticipated changes.
- Beth Knight also adds that INNCRRRA has also been thinking of how ISPAN's work can be integrated into Excelerate trainings.

Lead in Water Testing Updates

Presenter(s): Edie Washington Gurley

- Edie provided updates on DCFS Special Project Lead Data to the council:
 - DCFS has added updates to their data chart including adding a column that specifies region and a column that includes providers that noted a construction date for their site.
 - According to the data, many providers in the Cook County Region are not turning in their lead surveys. However, many childcare providers say they have not received the survey despite the information being out in the field.
- Edie invited the council to brainstorm ideas on how to spread information about the lead survey to providers. The council gave the following suggestions:
 - Licensing representatives should make sure to include a lead survey as a part of their caseload work.
 - Include more information on sources outside of the DCFS website because many providers do not often check the website or rely on it for information.
- Maria E. said she can commit to pushing out the lead survey again in an effort to encourage more providers to submit them. She also asked if programs are being cited yet for not having completed the lead test yet?
 - Edie said that while programs are not being cited for having the survey completed, they are being cited if they have not tested for lead.
- Maria E. also asked when the deadline for the lead web training requirement will be put into play?

- Edie answered that there is no deadline yet since there is not enough training available out there and they are behind on enrolling everyone into trainings.
- Beth said INNCCRA has put out a lead training in English and Spanish online and received significant traffic (over 1,000 month). They have also had TOT's across Chicagoland in both languages as well.

October Forums

Presenter(s): Beth Knight

- Beth provided updates regarding the DCFS Forums that have been planned for October:
 - The location is being secured, and as soon as it is secured, the Council will be updated on the location and date of the forum.

Rules Update

Presenter(s): Victoria Range

- Victoria provided an update on the nutritional plan rules update:
 - A section discussing screentime is not on there at all.
 - Victoria is working with Edie to look at the language and decide if there should be any changes.
 - They suggest it would be helpful for the Council to put together a narrative for Victoria so she can see what is missing and what should be added to the proposals.

IDHS Updates

Presenter(s): Kisha Davis

- Kisha provided updates for the Council regarding IDHS:
 - Since 2015, enrollment in the child care assistance program has reduced significantly since CCAP was decreased. Currently, IDHS is working on strategies to outreach to families, which include developing a marketing plan, educating providers on CCAP policies, and evaluating policies that can hinder CCAP possibilities.
 - As part of their outreach strategy, IDHS will be emailing out monthly newsletters and have flyers that will contain contact info. They have also launched a Facebook account (@ILCCAP) on August 1st. IDHS will be also training their staff on enrollment information so that they may pass along information to their clients.

Committee Reports

Presenter(s): Kisha Davis

- Debra DeValdivielso is stepping in for Ken Yordy, who retired. They are also in the process of searching for a non-DCFS co-chair as well.

Data

Presenter(s): Theenshina Mayfield

- The committee is also looking for a co-chair for Theenshina. If anyone has any recommendations, they ask that they be brought to Maria E.

Systems Integration

Presenter(s): Tom Layman, Jill Wilson

- Jill Wilson is the new co-chair.

Training

Presenter(s): Beth Knight, Edie Washington

- Beth provided updates on the training committee:
 - There will be an active shooter training on October 2nd.
 - Shantay will be taking Edie's place as the co-chair of the training committee.

- There is a workgroup for a Train the Trainer event for expulsion that includes a discussion on best practices and where they can access resources.
 - Maria E. will also be giving a presentation.
- Emnet Ward asked if there could be a training for providers on the impact of screen time?
 - Beth said she will check in with other programs then follow up.

Public Comment

- No comment

Adjourn

Next Meeting Date and location:

November 7, 2019 11:00am – 1:00pm

DCFS 1911 S. Indiana, 9th floor conference room

Chicago, IL